

## FIRE CAPTAIN GUILTY

Waldo Objects to Taking Out Apparatus for Exhibition.

## CHAPLAIN'S TWO SURPRISES

Obliged to Take an Oath and Asked to Take \$10,000 from Mrs. Sage for Libraries.

The Rev. Edward M. H. Knapp, Protestant Episcopal chaplain of the Fire Department, was somewhat surprised twice yesterday. The first time was when he was obliged to take an oath. The second was when he was requested to take \$10,000.

The first surprise occurred when Mr. Knapp was a witness, together with Rufus Gaynor, the Mayor's son; Arthur Copper, a lawyer; Reginald Cleveland, a newspaper man, and J. La Baron Johnson, a former chaplain of the department, in the case of Captain Edward F. O'Connor, now in command of Engine Company 176, at Kings Highway and East 14th street, Brooklyn.

Captain O'Connor was being tried on the charge of placing his engine out of service without informing the fire alarm telegraph bureau, a breach of the department's rules and regulations.

On the night of January 30, it was said, he ran engine 72, of which he was then foreman, out of the engine house and up the street for the purpose of amusing a party of visitors, embodied in the witnesses of yesterday morning.

The witnesses all declared that the whole performance did not take more than two minutes, and sought to show that the engine was at no time out of reach of the alarm. Moreover, Assistant Foreman Murphy, Battalion Chief Skelly and Fire Chief Croker all testified that it was a common custom of the department to give these exhibitions to favored visitors, and each asserted that he had witnessed many of them. Chief Croker further thought that the engine was in a better position to answer an alarm than it would have been had it remained in the house.

Fire Commissioner Waldo, however, who was complainant, judge and jury in the case, believed that the taking out of the apparatus was a serious matter and should not be done. He pronounced the culprit guilty of the charge, but in consideration of his previous excellent record let him off with a reprimand. Captain O'Connor had already received some punishment for his offence in being suspended for four days after the night of the turnout, so that the ends of justice were not defeated.

Mr. Knapp's second surprise was not wholly unlooked for. For a number of months he has been interested in obtaining libraries for the firehouses of the city containing such books as the men study in preparation for their examinations for promotion. Yesterday he learned that Mrs. Sage was willing to contribute \$10,000 for the purpose.

He said last night that he was going to work right away in the selection of the books and hoped to have every firehouse in greater New York equipped with a library in the course of a month. The men attend all Service schools to prepare themselves for the examinations, and the chaplain expects the libraries to assist them materially in their work.

Only books that are required for such study will be provided at the present time, but the chaplain said that if he could obtain other contributions he would establish general libraries in the houses.

## DOCTOR'S WIDOW COMMITTED

Mrs. Thomas's Conduct in Court Leads to Doubt as to Her Sanity.

Mrs. Blanche E. Thomas, the widow of Dr. B. Clark Thomas, once a well known physician of this city, was sent by Magistrate Herbert in the Tombs court yesterday to Bellevue Hospital for five days for observation as to her mental condition.

Mrs. Thomas appeared in court as complainant against Alexander V. Campbell, a lawyer of No. 26 Broadway, and after she made her accusations in a rambling story Mr. Campbell said he had known her husband, and that he did legal business for the widow also, but that she had been annoying him recently and he was in fear of her.

Robert T. Martinson, also a lawyer of No. 26 Broadway, made an affidavit that he had seen Mrs. Thomas acting irrationally.

During the proceeding Mrs. Thomas constantly interrupted the testimony of the lawyers and, failing again and again to heed the cautions of Magistrate Herbert, she was ordered taken to the hospital for examination as to her sanity.

## HICKORY TREES THREATENED

Blight in Van Cortlandt Park Alarms Commissioner Higgins.

A new blight has struck the hickory trees in Van Cortlandt Park, according to Park Commissioner Higgins of the Bronx, and unless money is appropriated by the Board of Estimate at once the hickory trees in Van Cortlandt Park will be sacrificed."

"It will take \$5,000 to stop this new insect," said Commissioner Higgins yesterday. "I shall ask the Board of Estimate for that amount, for unless the blight is checked some of the finest trees in Van Cortlandt Park will be sacrificed."

Three hundred chestnuts are to be removed from this park in the near future. More than that number had to be cut down last year. The last chestnut trees in Central Park were removed then.

## SHOT IN THIGH; ARRESTED

Police Not Fully Convinced That Story of Hold-up and Robbery Is True.

Lemuel Ferris was found early Thursday at Broadway and 136th street with a bullet wound in his right thigh. At the J. Hood Wright Hospital he said he had been held up, robbed of \$25 and shot by several men because he wouldn't throw up his hands when they attacked him. Then he was arrested as a "suspicious person."

Detectives say Ferris, who is only twenty-one years old, has served two terms in the reformatory, and believe he has not told the full story of his wound. His mother and sister insisted that Ferris had been threatened with death through an unsigned letter. They said he was some sort of a collector, but didn't know where he was employed.

## HELD FOR UNDERRVALUATIONS.

Carl Stoll, of No. 340 First avenue, was arrested yesterday by Marshal Henkel and arraigned before United States Commissioner Shields, who held him in \$1,000 bail on a charge of undervaluation importations. Stoll was accused of entering German merchandise in this port on January 31 by means of false consular invoices and other letters, which did not give the true value of the goods.

## SYRACUSE ALUMNI TO HEAR DIX

Governor Dix, Chancellor Day and Justice Tompkins, of the Supreme Court, will be the speakers at the annual dinner of the New York City Alumni Association, of Syracuse University, to be held at the Brevoort this evening. This is one of the annual occasions on which Syracuse University men and women turn out to give a big reception for Chancellor Day, and this year they are extending the circle to include other prominent men.

## CAPTAINS CALLED TO TRIAL

Nine of 'Em and Two Lieutenants to Face Croppsey on Charges.

Nine police captains and two lieutenants will be placed on trial to-day before Commissioner Croppsey, it was learned at Police Headquarters yesterday afternoon. Captain Louis Kruecher, of the West 152d street station, and Lieutenant Joseph F. Thompson, of the same station, will be tried on a charge alleging that they failed to have their desk blotters numbered properly. Captain Henry Burfield, of the East 22d street station, will face the same charge.

Captains Patrick Corcoran, of the East 14th street station; Frederick W. Martens, of the East 88th street station; John L. Zimmerman, of the West 100th street station; Edward Hughes, of the East 5th street station; James F. Thompson, of the Gates Avenue station; Brooklyn, and Patrick J. Cray, of the East 25th street station, are to be charged with failing to have the schedule of the day and night posts placed in the station blotter. Lieutenant John N. Boyle, of the West 8th street station is to be tried on a similar charge.

It is understood that recently Deputy Commissioner Driscoll, made a tour of Manhattan and found that the instructions contained in a special order issued January 14 relative to the method of keeping the blotter were not being carried out in many instances.

## DIDN'T SEE AUTO ON TRACK

Flagman on Trial for Merrick Accident Blames Railroad.

Charged with being responsible for the death of Mrs. Fannie Glaser, Rebecca Glass, Bertha Weiss and John Bonham, a chauffeur, who were in an automobile which was run down by a work train at the Merrick Road crossing of the Long Island road, in Springfield, on August 23, 1910, William Peach, who was flagman at the crossing that day, was placed on trial yesterday before Judge Humphrey, in the Queens County Court, Long Island City. Peach was indicted for manslaughter in the second degree.

William Hendrickson, an employee of the Public Service Commission, testified that the gates guarding the crossing were operated by compressed air from a pump in the watchman's shanty. He said a small window was the only outlet afforded the watchman, and that heavy paper had been pasted over two of the window panes had been broken out and a telegraph pole further obscured a view of the track from the two remaining window lights.

Miss Mary Eckert testified that when she visited General Eckert last July she had much trouble in making him understand her and that he had great difficulty in articulating. She said the muscles of his face twitched. Thomas T. Eckert, Jr., left the table on that occasion, she said, saying, "I can't stand this." She said that the general had to eat slowly, and the son sometimes became impatient with him.

Miss Eckert said she heard the son say to his father, "Hurry up, T. T.; we can't wait all day for you."

The general's reply was: "I can't help it. My teeth bother me, and I can't eat fast."

Miss Eckert told of a conversation with Thomas T. Eckert, Jr., in 1906, when the son told her that he was having the Eckert home, at No. 54 Fifth Avenue, changed into a business building. She asked him, "What will uncle think of that?" and he replied, she said: "Oh, that doesn't matter. I can twist him around my fingers. I have got the old man right where I want him."

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